Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for securely accelerating an external domain locally, comprising:

receiving a secure communications request for an external domain from a client;

identifying a domain identification associated with the request; and

routing the request to a local domain accelerator based on the domain identification, wherein the local domain accelerator communicates securely with the external domain and securely with the client, and wherein the local domain accelerator caches data from the external domain for servicing the request of the client.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising processing the method as at least one of a forward proxy and a transparent proxy.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising, returning, by the local domain accelerator, to the client a domain certificate that identifies the local domain accelerator as the external domain to the client.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising, establishing a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) handshake between the client and the local domain accelerator to service the request, wherein the client believes that the handshake is with the external domain.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving further includes intercepting the request that originates from the client for the external domain.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising, accessing, by the local domain accelerator, caching services for caching and managing the data.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying further includes stripping a host header from the request, wherein the host header is the domain identifier which identifies the external domain.

8. A method for securely accelerating an external domain locally, comprising:

receiving a secure request forwarded from a proxy, the secure request originating from a client and destined for an external domain;

establishing a secure communication with the client by providing the client a certificate associated with the external domain; and

servicing the client with data from local cache that is acquired from the external domain, and wherein a portion of that data is used to service the secure request.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein servicing further includes acting as the external domain when interacting with the client.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising accessing caching services from the proxy to manage the data in the local cache.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein servicing further includes acquiring at least a portion of the data from the external domain in advance of a subsequent request for that portion of the data, wherein the subsequent request is issued from the client.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein servicing further includes interacting securely with the external domain to acquire the data housed in the local cache.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein interacting securely further includes mutually signing interactions transmitted between the method and the external domain.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein interacting securely further includes using the proxy to establish a secure communications channel between the method and the external domain.

15. An external domain acceleration system, comprising:

a proxy;

a local domain accelerator, wherein a client securely requests an external domain and the proxy routes the request to the local domain accelerator, the local domain accelerator securely communicates with the external domain and caches data in a local cache of the proxy which is used to service the client via secure communications between the local domain accelerator and the client.

16. The external domain acceleration system of claim 15 wherein the local domain accelerator vends a certificate associated with the external domain to the client to present itself as the external domain.

17. The external domain acceleration system of claim 15 wherein communications between the local domain accelerator and the external domain are mutually signed.

18. The external domain acceleration system of claim 15 wherein the client is a browser application that interacts with the local domain accelerator via Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) communications.

19. The external domain acceleration system of claim 15 wherein the proxy is at least one of a transparent proxy and a forward proxy.

20. The external domain acceleration system of claim 15 wherein the proxy creates a secure communications tunnel between the client and the local domain accelerator and the proxy creates a secure communications channel between the local domain accelerator and the external domain.

21. An external domain acceleration system, comprising:

a local domain accelerator; and

cache, wherein the local domain accelerator securely communicates with a client as if the local domain accelerator was an external domain and securely communicates with the external domain for purposes of acquiring data from the external domain, and wherein the local domain accelerator houses the data in and vends the data from the cache to the client.

22. The external domain acceleration system of claim 21 further comprising a proxy that acts as a secure conduit between the client and the local domain accelerator and a secure conduit between the local domain accelerator and the external domain.

23. The external domain acceleration system of claim 21 wherein the local domain accelerator vends a certificate associated with the external domain to the client to present itself as the external domain.

24. The external domain acceleration system of claim 23 wherein the local domain accelerator and the external domain exchange certificates with one another during communications with one another.

25. The external domain acceleration system of claim 21 wherein the client is a browser and uses Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) communications to attempt to directly communicate with the external domain, the communications are intercepted and forwarded to a proxy and the proxy forwards the communications to the local domain accelerator where the local domain accelerator presents itself securely to the client as if it were the external domain.

26. The external domain acceleration system of claim 21 wherein the external domain includes a plurality of external sites having a plurality of services.